person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator.

3. (amended) A method of adjusting the two-way communication range of an RFID system to permit a person to individually handle and interrogate each one of a plurality of tagged objects, each tagged object having an RFID tag transceiver, comprising the steps of:

mounting on the person an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna;

mounting on each tagged object an RFID tag transceiver, wherein

each tag transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between that tag transceiver and the interrogator transceiver, and

the interrogator transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any of the tag transceivers; and

adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver of each of the tagged objects exceeds the closest distance, during times when the person handles that tagged object, between the antenna of the interrogator and the tag transceiver mounted on that tagged object;

wherein the adjusting step further comprises adjusting said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when the person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator.

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11. (amended) An RFID interrogator apparatus having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, wherein each tagged object has a respective RFID tag transceiver attached thereto, comprising:

an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any of the RFID tag transceivers;

an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for mounting on a person; and

a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

12. (amended) An RFID interrogator apparatus having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, wherein each tagged object has a respective RFID tag transceiver attached thereto, comprising:

an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any of the RFID tag transceivers;

an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for mounting on a person; and

a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

16. (amended) An RFID tag having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person operating an RFID interrogator transceiver to individually interrogate the tag without interrogating other RFID tags which are more distant from the interrogator transceiver, comprising:

an RFID tag transceiver adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein the tag transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and any RFID interrogator transceiver; and

a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and any interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver;

wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles the

tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

17. (amended) An RFID tag having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person operating an RFID interrogator transceiver to individually interrogate the tag without interrogating other RFID tags which are more distant from the interrogator transceiver, comprising:

an RFID tag transceiver adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein the tag transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and any RFID interrogator transceiver; and

a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and any interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver;

wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles the tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

20. (amended) An RFID system having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

a plurality of tagged objects, wherein each tagged object includes a respective RFID tag transceiver attached thereto;

an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any of the RFID tag transceivers;

an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for mounting on a person; and

a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way

communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

21. (amended) An RFID system having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

a plurality of tagged objects, wherein each tagged object includes a respective RFID tag transceiver attached thereto;

an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any of the RFID tag transceivers;

an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for mounting on a person; and

a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

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25. (amended) An RFID system having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna adapted for mounting on a person; and

a plurality of RFID tags, each tag being adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein each tag includes

an RFID tag transceiver which is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the RFID interrogator transceiver, and

a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver of said RFID tag;

wherein the control logic circuit of each RFID tag adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said

person handles the tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

26. (amended) An RFID system having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna adapted for mounting on a person; and

a plurality of RFID tags, each tag being adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein each tag includes

an RFID tag transceiver which is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the RFID interrogator transceiver, and

a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver of said RFID tag;

wherein the control logic circuit of each RFID tag adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles the tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.